

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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2a1
1. An introducer sheath comprising:
2 a shaft extending from a proximal end portion to a distal end portion;
3 and
4 a distal tip section at said distal end portion of said shaft,
5 said distal tip section comprising a polymeric material containing over
6 20% and up to about 75% by weight of radiopaque material, and
7 said shaft being distinctly less radiopaque than said distal tip section.

1 2. The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said distal tip
2 section contains between about 50% to 55% by weight of radiopaque
3 material.

1 3. The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said radiopaque
2 material is selected from the group tungsten, titanium, tantalum, platinum,
3 gold, silver, bismuth trioxide and lead.

1 4. The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said radiopaque
2 material is tungsten.

1 5. The introducer sheath according to claim 4, wherein said tungsten
2 particles range in size from about 0.5 microns to about 25 microns.

1 6. The introducer sheath according to claim 4, wherein said tungsten
2 particles range in size from about 1.4 microns to about 1.8 microns.

1 7. The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said polymeric
2 material of said distal tip section is selected from the group fluorinated
3 ethylene propylene, nylon, polyethylene, polyurethane and
4 polytetrafluoroethylene.

1 8. The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said polymeric
2 material of said distal tip section is fluorinated ethylene propylene.

1 9. The introducer sheath according to claim 8, wherein said polymeric
2 material of said distal tip section contains radiopaque filler over 20% by
3 weight of tungsten particles.

1 10. The introducer sheath according to claim 9, wherein said distal tip
2 section contains between about 50% to 55% by weight of tungsten
3 particles.

1 11. The introducer sheath according to claim 9, wherein said tungsten
2 particles range in size from about 0.5 microns to about 25 microns.

1 12. The introducer sheath according to claim 9, wherein said tungsten
2 particles range in size from about 1.4 microns to about 1.8 microns.

1 13. The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said distal tip
2 section was initially a separate member.

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1 14. An introducer sheath comprising:
2 a shaft extending from a proximal end to a distal end; and
3 a distal tip section at said distal end of said shaft,
4 said distal tip section comprising a polymeric material containing
5 radiopaque particles,
6 said shaft being distinctly less radiopaque than said distal tip section,
7 said distal tip section polymeric material is fluorinated ethylene
8 propylene and contains between about 50% to 55% by weight of tungsten
9 particles that range in size from about 1.4 microns to about 1.8 microns.

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